

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10351 071619Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 INR-10 H-01
/050 W

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R 070607Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2613

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10351

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EPAP, IN
SUBJECT: INDIA - TEXTILE EMBARGO

REF: STATE 168715

1. OUR READING OF REFTEL IS THAT WE ARE PROPOSING TO THE INDIANS A MEANS BY WHICH THE PRESENT EMBARGO CEP BE LIFTED. TO MAKE IT ACCEPTABLE TO THE CONCERNED AGENCIES IN THE USG, WE ARE ASKING THE INDIANS TO INCLUDE CERTAIN TYPES OF HAND-LOOM GOODS, NOW EXEMPT, UNDER AN AMENDED QUOTA.
 2. LAST MONTH IN WASHINGTON, THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED THE PRESIDENT FOR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF THEIR TEXTILE PROBLEM. THE PRESIDENT RESPONDED BY ASKING DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF GIVING SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO INDIA'S HAND-WOVEN FABRICS THAT ARE NON-COMPETITIVE WITH AMERICAN TEXTILES. THE FOLLOW-UP RESPONSE WE HAVE GIVEN THE GOI IN OUR PROPOSAL, AFFECTING AS IT WILL AN IMPORTANT SECTOR (THE HANDLOOM INDUSTRY) IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES, IS NOT LIKELY TO APPEAR TO THE INDIANS FULLY IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY.
 3. WITHOUT UPSETTING OUR OWN REQUIREMENTS FOR SOLVING THE
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PROBLEM, MIGHT NOT WE SOFTEN OUR PROPOSAL BY INCLUDING A MANDATORY REVIEW OF THE AMENDMENT IN ONE YEAR AND OFFERING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EASED POSITION ON HANDLOOM TEXTILES AT THAT TIME? MARKET DEMANDS FLUCTUATE FROM YEAR TO YEAR, SO OUR SITUATION MAY HAVE CHANGED BY THEN. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOI COULD MORE EASILY SELL THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THEIR PLANNERS AND THE HANDLOOM CONSTITUENCY IF THEIR COMMITMENT

DID NOT NECESSARILY RUN THE FULL FIVE YEARS OF THE AGREEMENT.

4. THE US PROPOSAL HAS ALREADY MADE THE LOCAL PRESS, AND
PARLIAMENT WILL REOPEN IN LESS THAN TWO WEEKS. WE WOULD AP-
PRECiate BEING KEPT INFORMED ON THIS ISSUE, THEREFORE.
GOHEEN

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